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Art Unit 3745

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants: Harry Bussey, Jr.  
Serial No: 10/725,127  
Filed: December 1, 2003  
TITLE: Steam Expander for Loose Fill Material Customer No.:

Commissioner for of Patents and Trademarks  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

Please amend the application as follows:

In the Description:

Page 3, lines 21 to 22, cancel "Fig. 5 ... and" and substitute therefor:

--Fig. 5 illustrates a cross-sectional top view of the steam expander of Fig. 3;  
and—

Page 5, lines 9 to 14, cancel "Referring...described." and substitute therefor:

--Referring to Figs. 4 and 5, a steam chamber 25 is disposed in direct communication with the outlet 20 of the housing 12 to receive loose fill material therefrom. In addition, the steam chamber 25 is in direct communication with the outlet 20' of the second housing 11 to receive loose fill material therefrom. The steam chamber 25 is otherwise of conventional construction, such as described in US patent 4,379,106 and need not be further described.—

Page 6, lines 2 to 10, cancel "The...enter." and substitute therefor:

-- The spacing of each scoop 28 from the outlet 20 of the housing 12 and the outlet 20' of the housing 11 is sufficient to allow the scoop 28 to gently move the delivered loose fill material away from the inlet end of the steam chamber 25 to avoid accumulation thereof without fracturing, splitting or flaking of the individual elements of

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the material. In this respect, each scoop 28 has an L shape but made also be made of other suitable shapes, such as a curved or concave shape. Each scoop 24 not only extends longitudinally of the chamber 25 as shown in Fig. 5 but also extends peripherally of the chamber 25 as indicated in Fig. 6. This shape allows the scoop 28 to move a mass of elements away from the outlet while at the same time creating an empty space behind the scoop 28 into which freshly delivered material can enter.--